

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 remain active in the application.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,505,285 (Organek). The Examiner there took the position that the stopper member is comprised by the elements 50-52 which are biased by the spring 44.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Rodriguez for the courtesy of an interview on October 7, 2004 at which time the outstanding rejection was discussed. At that time, Applicant pointed out that the claims all recite that the pilot cam member, the main cam member and the stopper member are relatively rotatable. For example, as seen in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 4, the stopper member 33 is connected to the main cam member 31 by the spring 34 so as to permit circumferential rotation between the two, and the pilot cam member 33 can rotate relative to the main cam member and the stopper member. Therefore, the projections 41 and 42 of the stopper member can rotate relative to the projections 43 and 44 of the main cam member and pilot cam member, but can also prevent engagement of the clutch due to drag torque (page 11, lines 12-28).

During the interview, the Examiner requested that the claims be amended to clarify that the pilot cam member, the main cam member and the stopper member are relatively rotatable. This has been done in the present response. It is Applicant's understanding that the outstanding prior art rejection will therefore be withdrawn.

The Examiner also indicated during the interview that European Publication 1178233, filed in the Information Disclosure Statement of December 16, 2003, had been considered, and that this would be confirmed in a subsequent Office Action.

Concerning the objection to the specification, Applicant pointed out that M.P.E.P. §608.01(p)(B) permits the incorporation by reference of the priority application

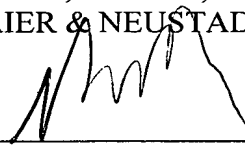
under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Since the Japanese application incorporated by reference on page 1 of the application is the priority application under 35 U.S.C. § 119, the objection to the specification is believed to be improper.

The claims have been revised to delete reference numbers.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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